

ordained Associate Pastor for Christian Education at California's Oldest Armenian Church.

The Presbytery of San Joaquin also ordained Jonelle Suzanne Garo, M.Div. as a Minister of the World and Sacraments on Sunday, June 13.

A native of Fresno, Garo received her early education at Carroll Baird Elementary School, Tenaya Middle School, and Bullard High School, where she lettered in varsity soccer and softball. She matriculated at California State University, Fresno for 2 years, reported for the Armenian Studies Newspaper, and played on the CSUF Women's Club Soccer Team.

In 1990, Garo transferred to Westmont College in Santa Barbara and earned a bachelor of arts degree in sociology 2 years later. She worked here way through undergraduate school as a nanny for actress Jane Seymour, construction worker, retail associate sales, and food service/catering assistant, among other things.

In 1994, Garo was admitted to Princeton Theological Seminary, the oldest Presbyterian graduate school in America. During her course of study, Garo was a member of the Theological Students Fellowship and cochaired the Charles Hodge Society and Friday Night Fellowship. She served as a ministry intern at the Armenian Martyrs Congregational Church of Havertown, Pennsylvania and as a chaplain at the University of Pennsylvania and as a chaplain at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center.

Garo conducted youth ministries in New England and Canada under the auspices of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America. She also engaged in missions work in the inner city of Newark and in the Republics of Mexico and Armenia. Upon her graduation in 1997, Garo undertook a 1-year Christian Education internship/practicum at her childhood church, the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno.

Garo is the daughter of Philip and Elaine (Karabian) Garo of Fresno, married Kalem Kazarian of Fowler, CA, on July 24, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jonelle Suzanne Garo Kazarian for her accomplishments as an ordained associate pastor for Christian Education in the oldest Armenian church. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Garo many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO CITIZENS AGAINST LAWSUIT ABUSE

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of California's 49th Congressional District, I would like to recognize the efforts of the 6,700 members of San Diego's Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse organization in promoting California's fourth "Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week" from September 20–24, 1999.

Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (CALA) is a respected and effective organization that works to educate consumers about the human and financial costs associated with frivolous lawsuits. This organization has led successful efforts to protect MICRA (the Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act) in the State of

California, to limit the liability of Y2K lawsuits, and to inform the public of the true threats of lawsuit abuse which burden our local economy.

CALA in San Diego is recognized locally for their distinctive billboard signs, "Gavel of Justice" cable network program, and for providing crucial educational information exposing the true financial effects that lawsuits have upon each and every one of us—in the pocketbook through higher insurance and medical charges.

I support CALA in their efforts to secure support for civil justice reform. I have been delighted to work with CALA in the past, and look forward to working with them in the future.

Mr. Speaker, CALA should be commended during this important "Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week".

IN HONOR OF ROBERT F. BUSBEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Robert F. Busbey and in recognition of Cleveland State University naming their natatorium the Robert F. Busbey Natatorium on October 2, 1999. I am honored to have been invited to this dedication ceremony.

Beginning with his enrollment in 1946 to Fenn College, later Cleveland State University, Robert F. "Bob" Busbey has contributed more to the history of Cleveland State athletics than any other single individual. As a four-sport athlete (swimming, baseball, track, and fencing), he was Fenn College's first All-American and achieved this honor in both 1948 and 1949.

After graduation, Mr. Busbey served as the head swimming coach at Cleveland State for 30 years. During his coaching tenure, Mr. Busbey was named the assistant swimming coach for the 1964 U.S. Olympic Team, served as chairman of the NCAA Swimming Committee, served as Cleveland State's athletics director, and was responsible for bringing five NCAA swimming championships to the Cleveland State natatorium.

Robert Busbey's accomplishments led to his receiving the 1982 National Collegiate and Scholastic Swimming Trophy, one of the sport's highest awards. Mr. Busbey served as the athletic director until 1990, developing a program of 18 intercollegiate sports and was a prime force in the planning and building of CSU's Physical Education Building, housing the world class natatorium. After serving as Cleveland State's Director of Athletics, Mr. Busbey served as the associate vice president for athletic affairs until his retirement in 1994. In recognition of his outstanding athletic legacy and generous support, Cleveland State University is honoring him by naming the natatorium the Robert F. Busbey Natatorium.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Busbey on his many accomplishments and commemorate him for his continuous support of Cleveland State University.

TRIBUTE TO EMILIO TORRES

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Mr. Emilio Torres of San Antonio, TX, upon his retirement after 51 years of Federal Government service.

Mr. Torres began serving his country on May 4, 1948, with a tour of duty in the U.S. Navy. After his service with the Navy, Mr. Torres spent his remaining years of Federal Government service at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio. Throughout those years of service, Mr. Torres held positions in Kelly Flight Test and in the Quality Assurance Division of the Directorate of Maintenance. Mr. Torres also served as chief of the Quality Evaluation Team and as chief of Administration Services for the Directorate of Maintenance. In addition, Mr. Torres was assigned to the San Antonio-Air Logistics Center as a special projects officer.

As an artist, Mr. Torres has made a number of significant contributions to Kelly Air Force Base. Mr. Torres is the designer of the Veteran's Monument at Kelly Air Force Base, and his efforts were instrumental in establishing the Kelly Air Force Base Heritage Museum. Mr. Torres has also received wide recognition and acclaim for his historical cartoon depiction of Kelly Air Force Base, a piece which appeared in the San Antonio Express News, the San Antonio Light, and the Kelly Observer.

Mr. Torres' artistic contributions have been recognized by the city of San Antonio, and his works have been presented to many distinguished officials including the Pope, the Queen of England, the King of Spain, all U.S. Presidents beginning with President Kennedy, and a number of secretaries of the Air Force, Governors, State senators, and other visiting dignitaries.

In his final duty for the Federal Government, Mr. Torres has been assigned to the San Antonio-Air Logistics Center Commander's Action Group. In this capacity, Mr. Torres manages the special projects function which aids the commander in support of distinguished visitors, briefings, tours, displays, and orientations.

The efforts of Emilio Torres merit recognition, not only for his years of dedicated service, but also for the indelible imprint that his artistic works have left on the San Antonio community.

A TRIBUTE TO BILL ROLEN

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I inform my colleagues of the recent death of John William "Bill" Rolan on September 14, 1999.

Bill is perhaps best known for his outstanding advocacy on behalf of our Nation's former prisoners of war. Since March 1994, Bill served as the Executive Director of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. In this important position, with outstanding support from his

wife Mary, Bill Rolan had a major role in assisting the Congress to respond more effectively to America's servicemen and women who were prisoners of war, their dependents and survivors.

After graduation from high school in Sevierville, Tennessee, Bill entered the U.S. Army in October 1943 and spent four months in basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida. Bill subsequently joined the 45th Division in March 1944 at Anzio Beach, Italy, participated in the liberation of Rome and the invasion of Southern France. Following six months of combat, Bill was captured and spent seven months in a prisoner-of-war camp. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, the European Campaign Ribbon with three battle stars, and the Prisoner of War Medal for his distinguished military service.

At the end of World War II, Bill returned to Tennessee, then later trained at Coyne Electrical Training School in Chicago, Illinois. In 1950, Bill moved to Washington, DC and began his successful 34-year career with the Army Strategic Communication Command at the Pentagon.

Following retirement in 1984, Bill organized the first American Ex-Prisoners of War Chapter in Northern Virginia. He continued his service to his fellow POWs throughout the remainder of his life, serving on the National Legislative Committee of the National Capitol Office for many years.

Bill continued his dedicated work on behalf of POWs and their families until his last days. When the House approved H.R. 2280, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 1999, on June 29th, this bill included a provision which would allow surviving spouses of former prisoners of war to qualify for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) benefits without requiring that the veteran have been 100% service-connected for ten years prior to death. This provision was recommended to the Committee by Bill Rolan and, as a result of his committed and articulate advocacy, an inequity in law which unintentionally penalizes spouses of former POWs will be corrected when this measure is enacted into law.

I am proud to have known Bill Rolan and we are better for his dedicated service to his Nation and his fellow veterans. We will miss Bill Rolan and extend our condolences to his wife Mary, his children and grandchildren.

**JIMMIE ICARDO, KERN COUNTY
FAIR'S AGRICULTURIST OF THE
YEAR**

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 23rd the 1999 Kern County Fair will name Mr. Jimmie Icardo as the Fair's 1999 Agriculturist of the Year. Jimmie Icardo's contributions to Kern County agriculture have helped make California farming the competitor it is today.

When you look at agriculture across the United States, California's ability to turn out and export quality crops is exemplary. It is through the efforts of Kern County farmers like Jimmie Icardo and the quality goods they have consistently introduced into the market place

that California is now one of the world's foremost suppliers of quality produce.

Jimmie Icardo represents a generation of farmers who sought to put out the best product they could. Successful in real estate, oil and gas and other ventures, Jimmie remains first and foremost a farmer. He did want to be the best farmer he could and his long standing reputation for quality melons, cotton, carrots and other produce says he achieved that goal. His work, along with the work of other farmers who also sought to be the best at the business, has given Kern County agriculture the reputation for quality the state enjoys today throughout the world.

HONORING THE VERY REVEREND FATHER KOURKEN YARALIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute The Very Reverend Father Kourken Yaralian who passed away December 17th 1998.

Born Garo Yaralian on July 9, 1931, in Kessab, Syria, Der Hayr received his primary education at Ousoomnasiratz Miatzyal Varjaran. At age 14, he entered the seminary in Antelias, Lebanon, where he received his secondary diploma. After graduation, he returned to Kessab and taught children at the same school he previously attended. From this point on, youth education would become a vital aspect of his priestly responsibilities throughout his life.

In 1954, he returned to the seminary to enter the priesthood, and in 1955 he married his only sweetheart, Anoush Hovsepian. On July 8, 1956, he was ordained Der Kourken.

Der Kourken's first parish was St. Mary's in Beirut, and in 1959, the catholicos sent him to the United States to assist in the consecration and to become the first pastor of Sts. Vartanatz Armenian Church in Ridgefield, NJ. There he organized the church choir and established the Sunday School and Nareg Armenian Saturday School. Knowing the importance of assimilating into the American culture, he attended Fairleigh Dickinson University, where he furthered his English language skills. He was then accepted into the Master's program of Columbia University's Union Theological Seminary where he received his degree in Sacred Theology in 1963. During the Great Ecumenical movement, he was the first Armenian priest to receive membership in the World Council of Churches.

After serving the Armenian community in New Jersey for nearly 8 years, Der Kourken was asked to preside as pastor for the parish of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Fresno, and with Yerezgin Anoush and their five children, he moved the family to California in 1966.

At Holy Trinity, Der Kourken raised funds and brought new parishioners that would secure the church's financial future. He then set out to meet and seek the support of his peers and colleagues from other faiths with the hope to establish cooperation and support between the major churches and temples in Fresno. Together these religious leaders wove the fabric of the community.

Der Kourken continued to be active in the local and Armenian community, and with the Sisters of Saint Agnes Hospital, he established the first hospice program in the San Joaquin Valley. Responding to the needs of Vietnam and other veterans of war, he served as Chaplain of Veterans Hospital for several years and provided counseling services in the hospital's drug and alcohol rehabilitation clinic.

Der Kourken's influence extended into the political arena, supporting Armenian candidates for both local and State government offices. Of his many accolades, he was proud to be recognized by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors for his achievements in both civic and religious contributions to the Fresno Community at large.

Of his major accomplishments, the one that gratified him most was the inception 22 years ago to establish the first Armenian Community Day School in the United States. He was recognized as the school's Founding Father.

Always striving to better the Armenian community and to make the Armenian Church Services more accessible to the Church youth, Der Hayr devoted an immense effort in the translation, transliteration and final publications of The Sacred Music and Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Apostolic Church. The texts are now widely used in Armenian Churches throughout the U.S.

Der Kourken also made major strides in promoting Armenian culture and religious music throughout the country. In 1984, in conjunction with the Music Department of San Francisco State University he initiated an accredited course in Armenian Church Music and Hymns, where he assisted in the music workshop instruction for the two semester course.

In 1980, he established the first Armenian Church in Vancouver, BC; in 1984, the first Armenian Church in Salt Lake City; followed by the first Armenian Church in Boulder, CO, in 1985.

Der Kourken passed away in his home Thursday, December 17, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to The Very Reverend Father Kourken Yaralian for his accomplishments and services to his community, the United States, and internationally. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending my condolences to the Yaralian family.

TRIBUTE TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to welcome home the members of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team, and to salute their heroic efforts to rescue survivors in Izmit, Turkey in the aftermath of the country's worst earthquake in history. Called Virginia Task Force One, this highly trained team of rescue specialists are a credit to our nation both as ambassadors and humanitarians.

On August 17, 1999 at 3 a.m., Turkey was shook by a catastrophic earthquake recorded at a magnitude of 7.4. The ground's rumbling came in the still of the night while most people were sleeping, and sent others running out